hotels in general and the hotel in Central Bombay in particular?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism has a scheme of approval of hotels and restaurants and one of the requirements is clearance of the establishments in respect of fire fighting arrangements issued by the concerned fire service authorities.

Mriganani Restaurant in Dharavi, Bombay is not on the approved list of the Department of Tourism. It has been ascertained from the Maharashtra Government that 22 persons died in a fire caused by gas leak in this restaurant and a police complaint was lodged under the Explosives Act against the owner, manager and the contractor of the restaurant who have been arrested, and the investigation continues.

Collaboration with foreign companies

2709. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the collaboration of certain foreign companies/individuals etc. in ITDC Hotel activities, guarantees that profitability, productivity and business activities will get the desired momentum there; and

(b) how much have been gained by ITDC with such collaboration with M/s. Raddison Hotel Co. of USA in the past *vis-a-vis* the expenditure borne by ITDC on their behalf during the currency of ITDC agreement with M/s. Radisson in the past?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. However, the purpose of collaboration was to increase profitability and productivity of hotel business of ITDC.

(b) ITDC's collaboration with M/s. Radisson Hotel Corporation of USA (RHC) included four hotels of the Corporation. ITDC paid an amount of Rs. 20.94 lakhs to M/s. Radisson. The gains to ITDC include business of about Rs. 0.32 lakhs, training provided by M/s. Radisson to ITDC Executives in its hotels in USA and other marketing efforts which would be difficult to quantify in terms of money.

Air taxi operator to become member of I.A.T.A.

2710. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director General of Civil Aviation had recently recommended any private air taxi operator to become member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA);

(b) if so, whether non scheduled operators including air taxi operators are entitled for the membership of IATA;

(c) whether Government have brought to the attention of the IATA that the private taxi operator M/s. East West Airlines based in Bombay do not have their own aircraft and that aircraft operated by them are leased aircraft; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected.

Adequate engineering facilities for Air taxi operators

2711. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private air taxi operators in the country are adequately provided with engineering facilities for under taking maintenance and overhaul and checks to be carried out in accordance with the provisions contained in the Indian Aircraft Act, Rules and mandatory circulars issued by Director General Civil Aviation;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the action proposed by Government for ensuring safe operations in accordance with Air Safety Regulations?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Prior to permitting operation of air taxi, the operator has to seek approval of their maintenance organisation by DGCA.

(c) Does not arise.

Arrival and departure schedules of Indian Airlines

2712. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the index of the schedules of arrivals and departures of the passenger air traffic in Indian Airlines for the last two years; and

(b) what is the capacity utilisation index of the passengers in Indian Airlines in the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) During the years 1990 and 1991, 56.29 per cent and 67.85 per cent respectively of the flights left in time. As per the general practice followed by most of the airlines world-wide. Indian Airlines does not maintain statistics of arrival of flights.

(b) The capacity utilisation of passenger traffic in terms of seat factor during the last two years is as follows:—

Year	Seat factor (%)
1990-91	78.8
1991-92	73.4

Parking charges charged from air taxi operators

2713. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount collected by Government towards parking charges from the Private Air Taxi Operators, month-wise and operators-wise at Bombay, Delhi, Madras and Calcutta, etc.;

(b) whether these private operators are also required to pay the landing charges;

(c) if so, what is the amount collected operator-wise and airport-wise;

(d) whether the rate chargeable as parking charges and landing charges for the private air taxi operators is the same as chargeable to the Indian Airlines; and

(e) if not, what is the difference?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Use of old Boeing 747 aircraft by air taxi operators

2714. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Boeing 737 aircraft operated by the private air taxi operators in India are over 15 years and taken on lease from the leasing companies of U.S.A.;

(b) whether it is a fact that these aged aircraft are flying with passengers with several snags, thus endangering the precious life of the passengers; and

(c) if so, what are the steps taken by Government to ensure that these aircraft are subjected to thorough inspections before the same is given the airworthiness certificate?